

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. There was no mutual respect or friendliness between the Polish soldiers and the Soviets. The Poles disliked the Soviets and usually laughed at them because they considered most Soviets primitive. A common source of mockery was the strange uniforms worn by the Soviet soldiers. This mockery in turn produced resentment in the Soviets. The Poles, on the other hand, resented the superior, patronizing air evinced by the Soviets and the flaunting of this feeling of superiority in minor situations.
 2. Since 1948, Soviet soldiers have not been allowed to enter any of the more popular Polish restaurants. The reason was that they brought their own liquor and made advances to and accosted some of the Polish women. This frequently resulted in serious brawls between Polish and Soviet soldiers. If an argument or fight developed between a Pole and a Soviet, you would usually find whatever Poles there were in the vicinity lined up on one side, and whatever Soviets there were lined up on the other. Generally speaking, the Soviet soldiers were avoided by both Polish military and civilian personnel.

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3. There was little fraternization. There were a few people who tried to ingratiate themselves with the Soviets, but this was usually for some personal gain. This sycophancy was referred to by the general population as "podlizywanie" (bootlicking). If a Soviet officer approached a Polish soldier and spoke to him, the Polish soldier would stand at attention and speak because he felt he must. This usually happened in a situation where the Pole was not successful in avoiding the Soviet.
4. In order to develop a more friendly atmosphere between the Poles and the Soviets, Soviet theatrical groups (Teatr Armji Czerwonej) gave shows at Polish army camps. Before the music and dances were given, a Polish officer would give a speech on the merits of the Soviets and the kindred spirit that prevails between the Poles and the Soviets. A Soviet officer would then give a short speech and the show would be presented. In order to ease the Polish soldiers' minds about Soviet oppression of their families and civilian friends, the speeches usually told about the outings attended by civilians sponsored by the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society (Towarzystwo Przyjazn Polsko Radziecko -- TPPR). The speeches also told about visits by the civilians to the Ukraine, Moscow, or Leningrad and the wonderful treatment they received in the USSR. These speeches were laughed at by the soldiers.
5. With Marshall (fnu) BOKOSZOWSKI as head of Poland's armed forces, the average Polish soldier felt that the Polish Army had finally been Sovietized. It was a Soviet Army with Polish soldiers. Soviet army regulations and Soviet training methods were introduced. Uniforms, especially those of the Air Force, were gradually being Sovietized. When BOKOSZOWSKI took over as head of the army, he extended army service from two to three years. This further added to the dislike the soldiers have for the Marshall.
6. In order to increase the dissatisfaction of the Polish soldiers, tell them how the American soldier lives, how he serves, what this soldier does with his free time, what he eats, the money he gets. tell them of his rights and what happens to him after he finishes his army service. Polish soldiers are told by the Soviets that their lot as soldiers is better than that of any Western soldier. They tell the Polish soldiers that they live and eat best. An important theme is that of the Katyn Forest massacre. A greater part of the Poles believe the Germans responsible. The Poles are told that America is responsible for the non exchanging of the PW's in Korea. The Soviets do not say that the PW's held by the Americans do have certain rights, that they can choose not to be released to the North Koreans. Finally, the Soviets tell the Poles that the Polish soldier is being trained for a defensive war, but the Polish soldier does not believe it and could be encouraged to feel more strongly about it.

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